

## Gallaudet student first deaf person to serve on D.C. Superior Court jury

Lisa McNiven, a Gallaudet University senior, recently became the first deaf person to serve on a District of Columbia Superior Court jury.

"When I got the notice [for jury duty]," said McNiven, "I showed it to my friends and asked if they'd ever done it. None of them had ever done it, and they said, 'Go for it.'"

So she sought legal help from Elaine Gardner, associate legal director of the National Center for Law and the Deaf at Gallaudet.

"I was afraid they'd disqualify me because I am deaf," McNiven said. "I went to [Gardner] for assistance because I wasn't sure how to proceed."

Deaf people can often be excluded from jury service if they check boxes on a response form stating that they have physical or mental infirmities that make them incapable of serving on a jury, or that they cannot adequately read, write, and understand English.

"Lisa came to us before she sent her notice in, so we had enough time to act," Gardner said. In the past, students have mailed their jury duty notices back and then come to the Law Center, which did not allow the center enough time to pursue the issue, she explained.

Gardner wrote to the chief judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the Hon. Fred B. Ugast, and cited a recent case brought before the Tenth Circuit Court in which a deaf woman served as jury forewoman in the federal district court with a sign language interpreter. The Tenth Circuit ruled that the interpreter's presence in the jury deliberation room was not a secrecy problem and did not inhibit or influence the jury in any way.

Gardner further stated that McNiven could read, write, and understand English, and that with a sign language in-

terpreter, McNiven would make an outstanding juror.

Gardner also called Francis Burton, the coordinator of D.C. Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services. A certified sign language interpreter himself, Burton arranged for McNiven to have an interpreter with her throughout her jury service.

Of the three days she served, McNiven spent two as a juror for the trial of an assault and battery case.

Since McNiven's jury service, five other deaf people have served with the D.C. Superior Court, and Burton is scheduling interpreters for another deaf person this month.

"It's been a long time in coming," said Burton. "I am very pleased that the District of Columbia is following the lead of some other jurisdictions of allowing people who have no disability, other than that they can't hear, to participate in their civic duty."

"Most people have felt very good about having served. I think it's a good experience for both the court and for the jurors as well."

"I was surprised," said McNiven. "It went smoothly. I really appreciated the interpreter."

McNiven was an active participant in the lengthy deliberations of the jury during the trial. The other jurors and all those in court completely accepted McNiven and her interpreter, she said. The judge even suggested that McNiven change her jury seat to one he thought would enable her to better see the interpreter as well as the courtroom.

McNiven said she is glad that her effort to serve on the jury has opened up possibilities for other deaf people as well.

"I would encourage deaf people to do it," she said. "It may take all day, but still do it."



Gallaudet alumnus John Yeh (right) accepts a special recognition plaque presented to him by Merv Garretson, special assistant to the president at a May 5 reception in "Ole Jim" held in his honor for winning the Washington, D.C. area Small Businessman of the Year award.

## Presenters still being accepted for conference on learning needs

Papers are still being accepted for presenters who wish to participate in the 1988 National Conference on Adults with Special Learning Needs, to be held at Gallaudet Aug. 1-4.

The conference will focus on collaborative partnerships between federal, state, and local agencies; effective literacy programs for adults with different learning styles; and overall adult literacy needs.

The conference, co-chaired by Dr. Boris Bogatz, director of Programs in Adult and Community Education, and William Langner of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, grew out of the First National Congress for Adults with Learning Needs, held at Gallaudet in October 1987.

That congress was a first-of-its-kind event designed to help develop information which could improve services for disabled adults. "It's been billed as an historic event by everyone who had anything to do with it," Bogatz said.

Bogatz and Langner are now working on a book, documenting objectives designed to help adults with disabilities, which contains chapters on various areas discussed at the congress.

Based on a declaration adopted at last year's congress, the 1988 conference will focus on people who are displaced homemakers, older Americans, dislocated workers, homeless, immigrants, incarcerated, limited in English proficiency, migrants, minorities, native Americans, out-of-school youth, refugees, underemployed, or unemployed.

The conference is co-sponsored by the American Association for Adults and Continuing Education and is endorsed by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education

and other national organizations serving adults with special learning needs.

A variety of formats are available for people interested in making presentations at the August conference. Preference will be given to proposals designed to encourage active participation or interaction with people attending the conference.

For more information, call Bogatz, x5044.

## Senate discusses Sim-Com testing

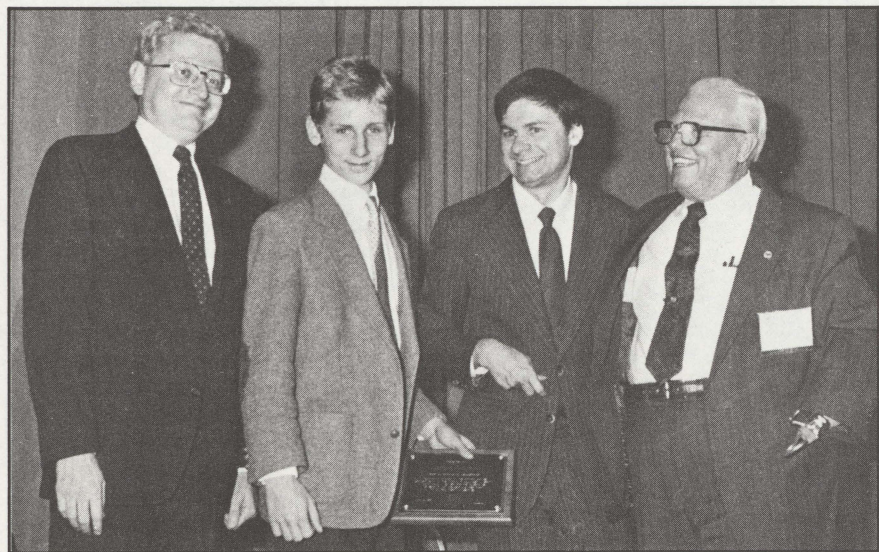
At its final meeting of the term on May 9, the Faculty Senate discussed a recommendation by Committee A (Faculty Welfare) to change the method by which faculty members are evaluated on sign communication skills.

After researching complaints by many Gallaudet faculty that the expressive segment of the Simultaneous Communication (Sim-Com) test is not reflective of a classroom situation, Committee A, with input from the Sim-Com advisory board, proposed that the portion of Faculty Guidelines on expressive evaluation be suspended for the 1988-89 year to try a new technique.

Committee A recommended that a one-half hour interview test be administered to faculty instead of the traditional two-minute videotaped monologue signing test.

There were no recommended changes for the receptive segment of the test.

The senate voted to provide an opportunity for faculty to also take the traditional expressive test, but postponed action on Committee A's proposal until its first fall meeting to determine the legality of suspending a portion of the guidelines.



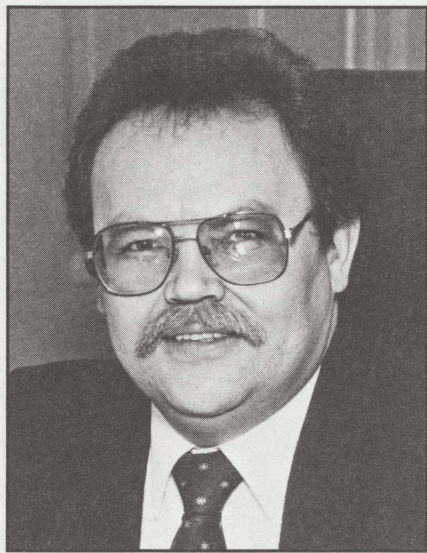
Student Body Government President Greg Hlibok (second from left) was presented the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped award by committee President Harold Russell (right) at a May 4 ceremony at the Washington Hilton. Also shown are Board of Trustees President Phil Bravin (left) and Los Angeles talk show host Tom Ritter.



## Resource center for hearing impaired in Northern Virginia to hold ceremony

The Fairfax Resource Center for the Hearing Impaired (FRCHI), a new community center which Gallaudet is helping to administer, will hold a grand opening ceremony May 24 from 1:30-8 p.m.

A 2 p.m. ribbon cutting ceremony will feature remarks by a number of dignitaries, including Gallaudet President King Jordan and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Audrey Moore.



Gerald Nelson, director of the new Fairfax Resource Center for the Hearing Impaired.

## Work permits required of minors

Campus departments considering hiring minors for summer work are reminded that Washington, D.C. regulations require all youth between the ages of 14 and 18 to obtain a work permit.

Permits for working in the District of Columbia may be obtained at the Office of Work Permits, 415 12th St. NW, Washington, D.C., Room 911. A parent of the youth must apply in person and must bring the following: their child's birth certificate, the youth's social security card, and a letter from the Personnel Office indicating the hours and dates of employment and salary.

A copy of the work permit must be attached to the personnel action form.

Questions regarding the hiring of minors can be answered by the Personnel Office, x5350.



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"The opening of FRCHI represents a milestone in Northern Virginia for deaf and hearing impaired people, who for years have fought to create a center that will ultimately guarantee them access to programs, services, and events like they've never had before," said Gerald Nelson, director of the center.

"It also represents a great opportunity to show that deaf and hard of hearing people do have a place in our community," he added.

Nelson has had an office in College Hall since March to acquaint himself with Gallaudet's resources while the center was being readied for occupation. He will be moving his office to FRCHI later this week.

Gallaudet is under contract with Fairfax to administer the center until it gains nonprofit status and appoints a board of directors, which will probably be early next year, Nelson said. An advisory board comprising mainly hearing impaired people from Fairfax has been set up to ensure that the particular needs of the county's hearing impaired population are met.

"I believe this is a unique project because it is a collaborative effort with Gallaudet, which has the resources to ensure the success of the center," Nelson said.

Fairfax County is providing the start-up costs to establish the facility. Although Fairfax has committed itself to the long-term financial support of the resource center, it is the county's intention for the center to eventually operate independently. Nelson said that the center will seek other funding sources to expand its offerings and broaden its service area to include all hearing impaired residents of Northern Virginia.

FRCHI is located at 2724 Dorr Ave. in the Merrifield area of Fairfax County, near the Dunn Loring Metro station at Interstate 66. For more information call 560-1977 (V/TDD).

## Announcements

A special exhibit about the Deaf President Now protest of March 6-13 is on display in the Ely Center multipurpose room through May 22. The exhibit is funded and co-sponsored by Gallaudet University and the National Association of the Deaf.

A new exhibit of gifts to the Gallaudet Archives from alumni is now open on the lower level of the Learning Center through Aug. 1. The exhibit contains items dating from the 1880s to the present, including personal

## FERS open season

The Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) open season for the Thrift Savings Plan extends from May 15 to July 31, 1988.

All eligible FERS employees will soon be receiving information booklets and election forms.

Civil Service Retirement System employees may also participate in the Thrift Savings Plan. Booklets and election forms are available in the Personnel Office in College Hall, Room 7.

For additional information, call Kayt Lewis, x5111.



Dwight Benedict, assistant director of Residence Life, receives Delta Epsilon sorority's Man of Merit award from Teresa Handshoe at Gallaudet's Annual Awards Night Ceremony May 3.

## Awards Night ceremony honors members of the Gallaudet community

Four Gallaudet faculty and staff members received special recognition in a campus-wide ceremony May 3 in Elstad Auditorium.

The long-standing event is Gallaudet's annual expression of appreciation for student groups and campus departments to recognize outstanding individuals.

Although the majority of the awards went to students, the following employees were among those honored:

Carol Garretson, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Arts who is retiring at the end of the semester, was named Teacher of the Year by Alpha Sigma Pi fraternity.

The fraternity also presented Dr. Astrid Goodstein, associate professor and director of the Department of Academic Advising, with its Mother of the Year award; and Dwight Benedict, coordinator of judicial programs in the Department of Residence Life, with its Man of the Year award.

Benedict also received Delta Epsilon sorority's Man of Merit award.

Delta Phi Epsilon sorority presented its Educator of the Year award to President King Jordan and its Student of the Year award to Greg Hlibok.

Another outstanding award that is presented yearly to a student, Phi Kappa Zeta sorority's Leonard M. Elstad award, went to student leader Bridgetta Bourne.

The Annual Tower Clock yearbook dedication went, for the first time, to all of the University's students.

Attendance was up this year for the ceremony, which was followed by a reception for award winners in "Ole Jim," according to Kitty Baldrige, chairwoman of Committee C (Student, Faculty Welfare), which hosted the event.

## Classified Ads

**FOR SALE:** '86 Isuzu pickup truck w/cap, 31K, manual trans., AM/FM radio, exc. cond., \$4,300/BO; '86 Chevy Sprint, hatchback, 2 dr., 64K, 5-speed manual trans., AM/FM cassette, maintained every 3K mi./3 mo., superb cond., \$3,300/BO; loveseat sofa (single bed), \$100; walnut hall table w/2 shelves, \$45; cabinet, \$15; Apple 2E computer w/software and computer stand, \$850/BO; German hi-fi, can convert to bar or storage, \$75/BO; china cabinet, \$750; antique sewing machine w/manual foot pedal, \$300/BO; large stag antler, \$45. Call Sharon, x5255 or (301) 263-8607 (V/TDD) eves.

**FOR SALE:** 14-ft. sailboat, fiberglassed wood, 3 sails, main jib and spinnaker, can be used w/motor, \$595. Call Don Pettingill, 577-9170 (TDD) or 731-0590 (V).

**FOR SALE:** Ping-Pong table, collapsible, w/paddles and net, \$25. Call Lolly, x5154 or x5169 (V).

**FOR SALE:** Sapphire and diamond ring set in white gold w/oval floral design, \$350/BO. Call Mary, x4475 or 577-1902 (V/TDD) after 5 p.m.

## Job Openings

**Some of the advertised positions may already be filled.** The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD).

ACADEMIC ADVISER: Academic Advising Department

REGISTERED NURSE: Student Health Services

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR/RECRUITER: Admissions and Recruitment

MANAGER, GROUNDS SERVICES: Physical Plant

APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER: Computer Services

TEACHER: Child Development Center

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR, UPPER SCHOOL: KDES